

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00201 241847Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 EURE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 CIEP-01 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SCCT-01 DHA-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00201 241847Z

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CONFIDENTIAL LUXEMBOURG 0201

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, LU

SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL OF MINISTER POLITICAL COOPERATION
MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG, FEBRUARY 23

SUMMARY: MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF MEETING FROM EC POINT OF VIEW WAS STATEMENT ON ANGOLA (LUXEMBOURG 0200) WHICH RE-ESTABLISHES COORDINATION OF NINE'S POLICIES AFTER LAST WEEK'S DISARRAY ON RECOGNITION. CONTRARY TO SOME PRESS REPORTS HERE, FRENCH NEVER REALLY OPPOSED ISSUING DECLARATION BUT DID OBJECT TO SOME OF THE LANGUAGE. THE MINISTERS PAINSTAKINGLY WORKED OUT COMPROMISE ON TEXT WHICH THEY REGARD AS A CAREFULLY WORDED, FORCEFUL STATEMENT OF COMMON EEC POLICY TOWARDS ANGOLA AND BEGINNINGS OF A COMMON POLICY ON THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES. MINISTERS ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, EAST-WEST ELATIONS, CYPRUS AND THE ASEAN MEETING IN BALI. FOLLOWING REPORT IS BASED ON DEBRIEFING MFA SECRETARY GENERAL WURTH GAVE DCM AND OBSERVATIONS OF USEC MISSION OFFICER WHO WAS IN LUXEMBOURG FOR THE MEETING.
END SUMMARY.

1. ANGOLA. MINISTERS SPENT THE LION'S SHARE OF MEETING ON ANGOLA. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON DEGREE OF SPECIFICITY IN A DRAFT DECLARATION PREPARED EARLIER BY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS. THE FRENCH RESISTED CITING THE CUBAN FORCES IN REFERRING TO EXTERNAL MILITARY INTERVENTION AND THE MINISTERS ALSO DEBATED WHETHER THE STATEMENT SHOULD "DEPLORE" OR "CONDEMN" EXTERNAL INTERVENTION. IN WURTH'S VIEW THE RESULT OF THE DEBATE WAS A MUCH STRONGER DECLARATION THAN THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD DRAFTED. AT A PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOWING THE MEETING, U. K. UNDERSECRETARY HATTERSLEY CALLED THE STATEMENT "ONE OF THE STRONGEST DECLARATIONS EVER TO COME OUT OF THE POLITICAL COOPERATION EXERCISE." BRITISH OFFICIALS SPECULATED PRIVATELY THAT THE FRENCH FINALLY AGREED TO A FORCEFUL STATEMENT BECAUSE THEY REALIZED THAT IN THE AFTERMATH OF LAST WEEK'S DISARRAY ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00201 241847Z

RECOGNITION ANY FOOT-DRAGGING AT THIS MEETING WOULD PROVOKE LOUD AND PUBLIC OUTCRIES FROM THE DUTCH, DANES AND GERMANS IN PARTICULAR. WURTH ADDED THAT THE MINISTERS BELIEVE THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE STATEMENT IS TO PUT A COMMON EEC POLICY ON ANGOLA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA BACK ON THE TRACKS.

2. AID TO ANGOLA AND A SOUTHERN AFRICA STRATEGY. WURTH

EMPHASIZED THAT A COMMON POLITICAL APPROACH TO ANGOLA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA DOES NOT IMPLY EEC COORDINATION OR AGREEMENT AS YET ON AID OR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES IN THAT AREA. IT WAS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED THAT COMMUNITY-WIDE AID PROGRAMS ARE DIFFICULT TO SET UP AND CUMBERSOME TO IMPLEMENT. SOME COMMUNITY STATES ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING BILATERAL AID TO ANGOLA. THE MINISTERS NOTED THAT ANGOLA WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE LOME CONVENTION SHOULD THE NEW GOA APPLY. THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE U. S. PROPOSAL FOR INCREASED COMMUNITY AID TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE, WITH SOME COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE FRG IN FAVOR OF AID AND OTHERS NOT YET READY FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS. THE MINISTERS REFERRED THE QUESTION OF AID AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS TO AN EXPERTS COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER STUDY. WURTH EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOL OFFICIAL WHO WOULD CHAIR THE COMMITTEE WOULD PRESS FOR CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND A COHERENT COMMUNITY STRATEGY TO BE PRESENTED TO A COMBINED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EEC MINISTERIAL MEETING LATER THIS SPRING. HE ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENCY WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY, IN-DEPTH U. S. ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING RHODESIA, ZAMBIA, ZAIRE AND NAMIBIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MPLA VICTORY IN ANGOLA.

3. EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. THE MINISTERS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED A REPORT ON THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE PREPARED BY THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS AT THEIR FEBRUARY 16-17 MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG (SEE LUXEMBOURG 0186). THE MINISTERS GAVE LUXEMBOURG AMBASSADOR TO ITALY JEAN WAGNER A MANDATE TO GO TO CAIRO TO MEET WITH MR. RIAD IN EARLY MARCH. WAGNER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A COMMISSION OFFICIAL AND THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS. WAGNER'S MANDATE INCLUDES PRESSING RIAD FOR APPROVAL OF THE EC SCENARIO FOR HANDLING POLITICAL QUESTIONS AT THE MAY GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LUXEMB 00201 241847Z

CONFERENCE. AS REPORTED IN LUXEMBOURG 0068, THIS SCENARIO CALLS FOR AN INVOLVED AND WHAT WURTH DESCRIBED AS FLOWERY OPENING STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN CO-PRESIDENT WHICH WOULD IN FACT REITERATE EC PUBLIC POSITIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. THE STATEMENT WOULD NOT GO BEYOND SUCH POSITIONS AND IS DESIGNED TO HEAD OFF ARAB INSISTENCY THAT POLITICAL ISSUES BE DISCUSSED DURING THE CONFERENCE. THE MINISTERS ALSO AGREED TO ASK THE EC COUNCIL TO FINANCE FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR CERTAIN ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, PRIMARILY OF A TECHNICAL NATURE, WITHIN THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. WURTH SAID THE CALCULATED COST WOULD BE ABOUT 100,000 UNITS OF ACCOUNT. IN CAIRO WAGNER WILL ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL HIS ARAB COUNTERPARTS THAT THE COMMUNITY IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO A EUROPEAN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ASSISTANCE PROJECTS ONCE THEY ARE AGREED UPON.

4. TERRORISM. FOLLOWING A SUGGESTION OF FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND SECONDED BY DANES AND BELGIANS, THE MINISTERS AGREED TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF THE COMMUNITY PROPOSING DISCUSSION IN THE UN OF INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES. THIS IS SIMILAR TO AN UNSUCCESSFUL BELGIAN PROPOSAL IN THE UN IN 1973. IT IS SEPARATE FROM THE EFFORTS OF THE MEMBER STATES TO COORDINATE THEIR OWN RESPONSES TO TERRORIST SITUATIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY WHICH IS BEING HANDLED, NOT VIA THE POLITICAL COOPERATION PROCESS, BUT RATHER VIA AN INFORMAL CONFERENCE OF INTERIOR OR JUSTICE MINISTERS OF THE NINE. WURTH COMMENTED THAT HE DOES NOT THINK MUCH WILL COME OF THE COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS AT THE UN IF THE PROPOSAL EVER GETS THAT FAR. HE SPECULATED THAT THE PROBLEM OF DEFINING TERRORISM IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT RAISES SO MANY POLITICAL ISSUES THAT ANY ACTION PROPOSED IN THE UN WILL BE STILLBORN.

5. CYPRUS. DURING EXTREMELY BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS, A NUMBER OF MINISTERS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HOPE AND CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ABOUT THE PROGRESS TO DATE IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN VIENNA.

6. EAST-WEST POLITICAL REVIEW. THE MINISTERS EXAMINED AND ACCEPTED A REPORT PREPARED BY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS. WURTH SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY PRESENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 LUXEMB 00201 241847Z

HAS EXPERT GROUPS WORKING ON TWO ASPECTS OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. ONE ASPECT IS CSCE FOLLOW-ON AND PLANNING FOR THE 1977 BELGRADE CONFERENCE. THE OTHER ASPECT IS THE EVOLUTION OF SOVIET POLICY IN LIGHT OF THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS, THE COMECON APPROACH TO THE EEC AND BREZHNEV'S PROPOSALS FOR A PAN EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT. ACCORDING TO WURTH, THE EXPERTS GROUP WILL RECOMMEND THAT ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION BE DEALT WITH IN THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE IN GENEVA.

7. MESSAGE TO ASEAN. THE MINISTERS APPROVED A MESSAGE TO THE ASEAN CONFERENCE IN BALI WHICH WAS ACTUALLY DELIVERED ON FEBRUARY 23. THE MESSAGE CONGRATULATES THE ASIAN NATIONS FOR THEIR INITIATIVE IN ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH AREA PROBLEMS THROUGH A COMMON APPROACH AND BY DIALOGUE IN THE CONSULTATIONS. THE COMMUNITY OFFERED THEM ITS FRATERNAL BEST WISHES. FARKAS

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